



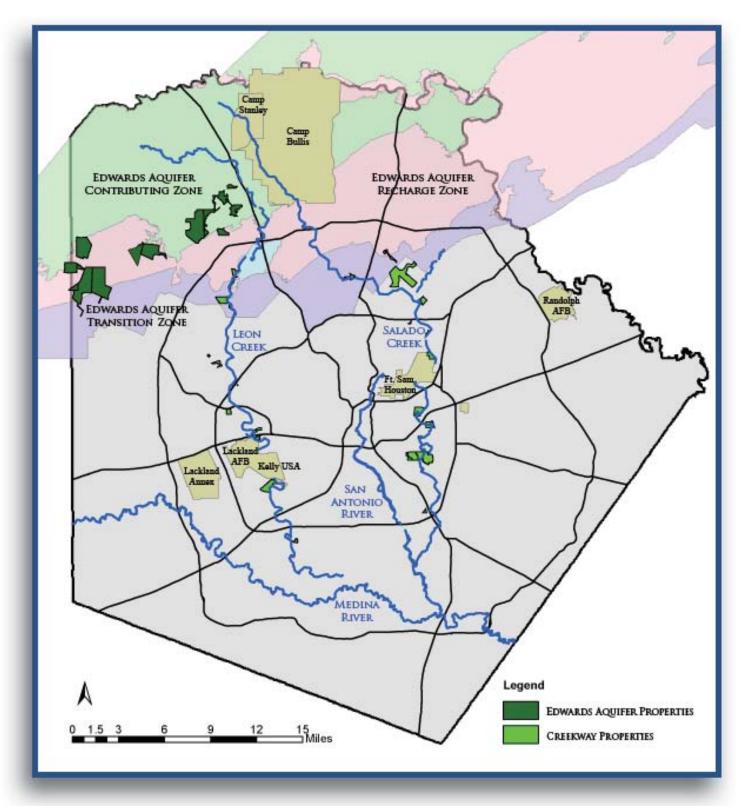


Voter-Approved Sales Tax Funds Help San Antonio Meet Community Priorities

an Antonio is one of the fastest growing cities in the country. Growth offers the opportunity for economic prosperity in the form of business development, higher-paying jobs, home ownership and other rewards. Yet growth also poses certain challenges such as an increased demand for services, greater use of vital resources, and the need to provide more recreational opportunities for citizens to maintain a high quality of life.

Cities like San Antonio have been provided with valuable tools to promote prosperity. Through the use of a voter-approved sales tax, San Antonio can create economic development or "venue" funds to support comprehensive plans identified as community priorities. For example, in May 2000, voters approved a venue project to provide funds to support an aquifer protection initiative and linear parkway development. This May, voters will be asked to continue those endeavors. Approval of Proposition 1 would provide additional funds to acquire land located over the Edwards Aquifer to protect and preserve the primary source of water for a growing population and an expanding economy. Proposition 2 would provide funds to acquire open space and create linear parks along Leon and Salado Creeks as well as support improvement projects on the San Antonio River and Medina River that would increase recreational space and protect life and property near flood-prone areas.

Proposition 1 and Proposition 2 each would be supported by an increase and an investment of 1/8 of a cent in the local sales tax, or one cent for every eight taxable dollars. This additional sales tax would be collected until the required funds for each project have been collected (Proposition 1 - \$90 million; Proposition 2 - \$45 million). Taxable merchandise includes items most residents buy every day such as clothing, fast food or electronics. It does not include non-taxable goods such as most groceries, medicine or health services. These projects also would be supported by visitors from outside of San Antonio who contribute to the local sales tax.



Mapping the Recharge Zone and Major Watersheds

This map shows a comprehensive view of the Edwards Aquifer Recharge, Transition, and Contributing Zones and the four major watersheds in Bexar County. Areas shown in various shades of green represent aquifer and creekway properties that have been acquired so far using funds approved by voters in May 2000. Proposition 1 will continue the City's efforts to obtain land in Bexar County and surrounding counties to protect the aquifer from future urban or incompatible development. Proposition 2 will continue the acquisition of properties along Leon Creek and Salado Creek to create linear parks and protect life and property from future flood events.

PROTECTING OUR WATER

Proposition 1, the Edwards Aquifer Protection Venue Project, authorizes the City of San Antonio to establish a watershed protection and preservation project to protect water in the Edwards Aquifer by acquiring and preserving land or interests in land in the aquifer's recharge and contributing zones inside and outside Bexar County. A 1/8-of-a-cent sales tax would be imposed to collect \$90 million for this project.

Preserving a Vital Resource

The Edwards Aquifer provides San Antonio with a pure, abundant source of water vital to the livelihood of a growing population and economy. Rainfall enters the aquifer through fractures, caves, sinkholes and other features and replenishes the aquifer. However, rapid growth and development in northern San Antonio continues to impact the aquifer's recharge and contributing zones, reducing the number of recharge features needed to maintain San Antonio's primary water resource. While rules are in place to regulate urban or incompatible development, the best way to protect the aquifer is to acquire sensitive and irreplaceable land located over its recharge and contributing zones.

Voters approved a 1/8-of-a-cent addition to the local sales tax in 2000 to collect \$45 million to purchase sensitive properties located over the Edwards Aquifer. A



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majority of these funds were designated for the acquisition of land and now are being used to carefully create nature trails and other park amenities in appropriate locations.

Following voter approval, careful consideration was given to the selection of properties for acquisition as part of the Edwards project. Community advisory teams comprised of geologists, hydrologists, land use planners and other aquifer experts outlined and prioritized undeveloped properties throughout Bexar County based on their environmental characteristics in order to achieve maximum value for voter-approved dollars. Consideration



also was given to parcels located adjacent to one another in an effort to preserve large land masses and natural areas. Before the 2000 election, there was no program designed to identify and protect sensitive land located over the aquifer.



A Long, Scenic View of the Future

All of the funds approved by voters in 2000 for aquifer-protection land purchases have been used. To date, 6,484 acres over the recharge zone within Bexar County have been purchased and protected from development using almost \$38 million in voter-approved funds, land donations, and savings achieved through the acquisition of certain parcels at below-market value. Many of the properties are former ranches and estates that are characterized by unique natural and man-made features and hilltops with long, scenic views. The properties range in size from 50 to 1,164 acres and are located primarily over north central and northwest Bexar County. Remaining project funds are being used for park operations and maintenance and for appropriate improvements designed for recreational and educational purposes.

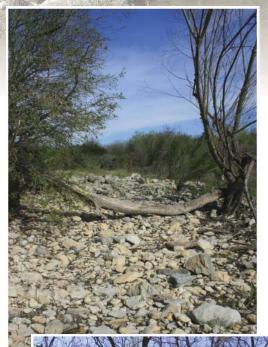
The environmental characteristics of each of the acquired properties continue to be evaluated. Protection of their natural assets is carefully considered before funding for park infrastructure is allocated and before natural areas are made accessible to the public. This fall, the City plans to open Crownridge Canyon Natural Area, the first park created through the Edwards program. This preserve will include miles of trails for hiking and nature appreciation through a network of diversely vegetated canyon lands.

The Edwards Aquifer stretches across thousands of acres over several counties in South Central Texas. Roughly 70 percent of the recharge zone is located west of Bexar County. Funds approved and collected through Proposition 1 would be used to purchase land or interests in land to continue the Edwards Aquifer protection initiative and preserve the most environmentally-sensitive properties located over the aquifer in Bexar County and beyond county lines.

ENTERING EDWARDS AQUIFER RECHARGE ZONE

LINEAR DARKWAYS

Proposition 2, the Parks Development and Expansion Venue Project, authorizes the City of San Antonio to acquire open space and create linear parks along Leon Creek, Salado Creek, the Medina River and the San Antonio River. These areas will become part of the municipal park system and include park improvements supported by project funds. A 1/8-of-a-cent sales tax would be imposed to collect \$45 million for this project.



Reconnecting with Nature

The City's linear parkway program is designed to establish a continuous linkage along Leon Creek and Salado Creek and their tributaries. The purpose of the program is to create a linear park system within city limits that incorporates passive flood control components with appropriate park amenities.

Leon Creek and Salado Creek are two of San Antonio's primary watersheds. Significant rainfall can cause these two creeks to swell beyond their banks and threaten life and property nearby.

However, during dry periods, these creeks offer miles of rugged, natural terrain for hiking and mountain biking. Continuous hike-and-bike trails are envisioned along the creeks that would include lighting and periodic access points to the trails. These

access points will be strategically planned at various points along each creek and will provide neighborhood access from multiple locations near the creekways. Larger acquisitions may include more active recreation opportunities such as soccer and baseball fields while other areas may offer more passive activities such as picnicking and bird watching. Linear parks will not only provide San



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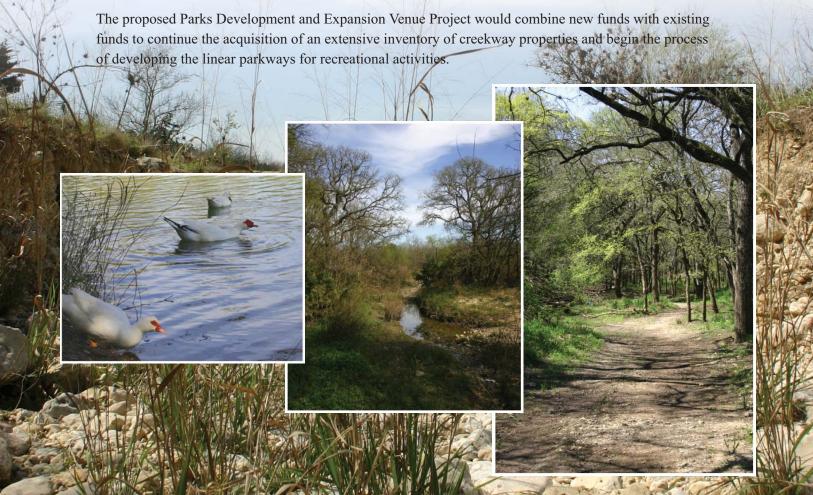
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The proposed Parks Development and Expansion Venue Project also would support projects near the Medina River and the San Antonio River. Funds would be used to create a link from Medina River Park to Mitchell Lake on the south side of San Antonio and support land acquisition, trailheads and other improvements. These improvements would complement a \$1.45 million bond project linking Medina River Park to City-owned property near the Mitchell Lake wetlands area. Additionally, Proposition 2 funds would be used to support the City's share of the San Antonio River Improvements Project. This project is a 10-year, \$148 million investment being made by the City, Bexar County, San Antonio River Authority and the federal government for flood control, economic development, ecosystem restoration and recreational improvements to a four-mile segment of the river from Josephine Street to Lexington and a nine-mile stretch from South Alamo to Mission Espada. Proposition funds would be designated for sidewalk, lighting and other park amenities along the river.

Following the Trail

Voters approved a 1/8-of-a-cent addition to the local sales tax in May 2000 to collect \$20 million to begin acquisition of properties in the Leon and Salado corridors. More than 100 properties (1,116 acres) along Salado Creek and 83 properties (2,289 acres) along Leon Creek are designated for acquisition in order to complete this continuous linear parkway system.

As of March 1, 2005, 179 acres along Salado Creek and 35 acres along Leon Creek have been acquired at a cost of \$2.89 million. Other properties along each creek have been purchased through a combination of bond project funds, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) buyouts and other sources and also are critical pieces of the continuous linear parkway system.



EARLY VOTING APRIL 20 - MAY 3

JOINT GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTION OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO AND NORTHSIDE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dates and Times for Early Voting:	
Wednesday, April 20, 2005.	8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 21	
Friday, April 22	
Saturday, April 23	
Sunday, April 24.	Noon to 6:00 p.m.
Monday, April 25 thru Friday, April 29	8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 30.	10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 1	Noon to 6:00 p.m.
Monday, May 2, thru Tuesday, May 3	8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Main Early Voting Location	
Bexar County Justice Center (Basement, south end across from cafeteria)	
Closed - Saturday, April 23 and 30 and Sunday, April 24 a	and May 1
Early voting also will be conducted at the following locations:	
Brookhollow Library	
City Public Service.	•
Claude Black Center	
Cody Library	
Collins Garden Library	
Crossroads Mall	e e
Great Northwest Library	
*Hardy Oak Elementary	•
Johnston Library	·
Las Palmas Library	
McCreless Library	
*Nichols Elementary	
Northside Activity Center	
Oakwell Library	
Olmos Basin Golf Clubhouse	~
Shavano Baptist Church	
South Park Mall.	·
Thousand Oaks Library	4618 Thousand Oaks
UTSA (1604 campus)	
* *	6900 N. Loop 1604 W.
Westlakes Mall. Windsor Park Mall.	6900 N. Loop 1604 W1401 S.W. Loop 410

Sites are subject to change.

^{*} Note: Hardy Oak Elementary and Nichols Elementary will not be open on Wednesday, April 20.